

# Pediatric Lessons Learned from COVID-19: Immediate and Future Implications

ASPR TRACIE Speaker Series

July 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), in collaboration with the Western Regional Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management ([WRAP-EM](#)), presents a speaker series focused on pediatric-specific lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ***Special Focus: Suicide and Mental Health Emergencies Before, During, and Beyond COVID-19***

### **Introduction: [Pediatric Lessons Learned from COVID-19: Immediate and Future Implications](#)**

- **Dr. Christopher Newton** (MD, FACS, FAAP, Trauma Medical Director, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland) and **Dr. Merritt Schreiber** (PhD., Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Lundquist Institute, Harbor- UCLA Medical Center) provide a summary of the pediatric lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on [WRAP-EM](#) grantees and how they managed suicide and mental health in children.

### **[Management of Suicide and Mental Health Emergencies in Children](#)**

- **Dr. Tona McGuire** (PhD, Behavioral Health Strike Team, Washington State Department of Health), **Dr. Jay Fisher** (MD, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, University Medical Center, UNLV) and **Dr. Mary King** (MD, Pediatric Critical Care, Children's Hospital Seattle, University of Washington) describe the surge in pediatric mental health emergencies in general and how their teams worked to manage these surges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **[The Safety Planning Assistant: A Web-Based Tool to Support Suicide Safety Planning Among Adolescents](#)**

- **Dr. Ryan Hill**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine; Incoming Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Texas at San Antonio (Fall 2021) discusses a brief intervention designed to assist individuals with suicidal thoughts and urges that can be implemented in fast-paced healthcare settings. Related resources:
  - [The Safety Planning Assistant: Feasibility and Acceptability of a Web-based Suicide Safety Planning Tool for At-risk Adolescents and Their Parents](#)
  - [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)
  - [Safety Planning Intervention: A Brief Intervention to Mitigate Suicide Risk](#)

#### **Related Resources**

[Developing a Healthcare Coalition Pediatric Surge Annex](#) (Webinar)

[Hidden Consequences: How the COVID Pandemic is Impacting Children](#) (Speaker Series)

[COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resources](#)

[Pediatric/Children Topic Collection](#)

[WRAP-EM](#)

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### Trauma-Informed Emergency Care for Suicide Prevention

- **Dr. Joan Rosenbaum Asarnow** (PhD, ABPP, Professor of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Science, UCLA, David Geffen School of Medicine) describes using a trauma-informed approach and various other treatments and programs to address suicidality risk factors and prevent suicide attempts.

### SAMHSA's Suicide Prevention Resources

- **Dr. Richard McKeon** (PhD, MPH, Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA]) highlights the various resources SAMHSA has developed to address [suicide prevention](#), specifically in youth. Related resources:
  - [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)
  - [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

### *Additional Recordings*

#### Compounding Disaster Pediatric Triage to Care

**Mandy Corbin** (MA, Associate Superintendent of Special Education and Behavioral Health Services, Sonoma County [CA] Office of Education) discusses the use of stepped triage to care support in county schools to help address student trauma. **Judith Cohen** (MD, Professor of Psychiatry, Drexel University, Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh [PA]) shares how PsySTART Rapid Triage can be used to target interventions and deliver resiliency skills session and a study that examined the use of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with youth experiencing complex PTSD. Related resources:

- [Code Triage: Integrating the National Children's Disaster Mental Health Concept of Operations Across Health Care Systems](#)
- [WRAP-EM Mental Health Resources for Children, Families, and Providers in Response to the Emerging Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

#### Tools for Coping with School during COVID-19

**Merritt Schreiber**, PhD (WRAP-EM MH Workgroup and Department of Pediatrics, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA) and **Tona McGuire**, PhD (Behavioral Health Strike Team, State of Washington Department of Health) describe the negative effects on mental health and academic progress the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children 18 and under. They also highlight the "Anticipate. Plan. Cope." app that families can use to address related stress and build resilience.

#### For more information:



[ASPRtracie.hhs.gov](https://asprtracie.hhs.gov)



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